

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 FEA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5352

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENGR, GW, US

SUBJECT: GERMAN PRESS REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S AND
SECRETARY'S SPEECHES

1. THE GERMAN QUALITY PRESS PROVIDED EXTENSIVE FRONT
PAGE COVERAGE TO THE ENERGY ASPECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S
AND THE SECRETARY'S RECENT SPEECHES. PORTIONS OF
SPECIAL INTEREST TO GERMANY AND EUROPE WERE QUOTED
EXTENSIVELY, WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE
"MENACING TERMS" USED IN SPEAKING OF ARTIFICIAL
SHORTAGES OF OIL SUPPLIES AND OF EXCESSIVE PRICES. MOST
PAPERS REPORTED THE DENIAL OF AN AP REPORT TO THE EFFECT
THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER HAD COMPLAINED TO
PRESIDENT FORD AT NOT HAVING BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE
SEVERE CRITICISM OF OIL PRODUCERS. IT WAS ALSO NOTED
POSITIVELY THAT WASHINGTON HAS IN THE MEANTIME "SOFTENED
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DOWN ITS EARLIER THREATS" AND IS NOW ADVOCATING THAT

SOLUTIONS SHOULD BE SOUGHT THROUGH "FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS."

2. EDITORIAL REACTION WAS MIXED. DIE WELT (HAMBURG, RIGHT-CENTER) STATED THAT "THE U.S. IS THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT IS CONDUCTING ITSELF AS THE PROBLEM CALLS FOR. WITH VERVE AND IMMENSE EXPENDITURES WASHINGTON IS PUSHING A PROJECT TO MAKE AMERICA SELF-SUSTAINING AS FAR AS ENERGY IS CONCERNED, A GOAL THAT IN FACT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WAS THE FLIGHT TO THE MOON." THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE (INDEPENDENT) STATED ON THE OTHER HAND THAT "IT IS WITH GOOD REASON THAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE ARE ADVISING AGAINST AN OPEN SHOWDOWN WITH THE OIL COUNTRIES." AND ARGUED THAT "THE WESTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT TRY TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME BY THREATS, BUT RATHER THROUGH QUIET AND PATIENT DIPLOMACY." THE SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG (I(INDEPENDENT - MUNICH) STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY CONSERVATION WHILE THE INFLUENTIAL ECONOMIC DAILY HANDELSBLATT STATED THAT "UNLESS ALL APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING, THE U.S. AND THE OIL-PRODUCERS ARE HEADED FOR A NEW CONFRONTATION."

3. AT WEEK'S END, PRESS INTEREST IN THE SPEECHES HAD DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY WITH THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION TURNING TO THE CAMP DAVID MEETING.
HILLENBRAND

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